

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The lower connection pipe 30 is constructed as a T-pipe piece on whose free connecting piece an exhaust pipe cover ~~34~~32 is fastened, while the connecting pieces are fitted onto a pipe connecting piece of the respective end muffler housing 26, 28 and are secured by two fastening clamps 34. A second connection pipe 36, in the following description referred to as an upper connection pipe 36, extends above the lower connection pipe 30 and consists of two connecting pieces 36a, 36b extending out of the respective end muffler housing 26, 28. The two ends of the connecting pieces 36a, 36b are spaced away from one another while being aligned with respect to one another on the face-side. The forming gap A is covered by a sliding sleeve ~~36~~36c-(shown only in FIG. 1) which is axially secured by clamps (not shown). Thus, the two connecting pieces 36a, 36b and the mountable sliding sleeve 36c allow a second gastight connection to be established between the two end muffler housings 26 and 28 by way of the connection pipe 36.